



DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL/THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH/815 SECOND AVENUE/NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017

Walter H. Boyd, Press Officer
Wm. Drew Dearnaley, Assistant Press Officer

Telephone: (212) 867-8400



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BENEFACTOR SOUGHT FOR 1979 PRAYER BOOK

NEW YORK -- Anyone have about \$180,000 and want to link his or her name with the J. P. Morgans, Sr. and Jr. ? These two men financed the production of the 1892 and 1928 editions, respectively, of the Standard Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church, and now the Rev. Canon Charles M. Guilbert, Custodian, is seeking a benefactor or benefactors for the 1979 edition.

Now that the General Convention has approved the new Prayer Book, the canons require that Canon Guilbert print and bind a new Standard Book, which is the standard on which all other copies are based. Temporarily, he is using a red French morocco bound, Chancel edition, published by the Oxford University Press, as the Standard Book.

The regular Standard Book will be 14" x 16" in size, use hand set type, and be printed on vellum paper, soaked overnight and fed one piece at a time into the press. Then, with a slightly lower grade of hand-made rag paper, additional copies will be printed, one each for the 115 dioceses in the Episcopal Church.

The Standard Books have been stored in a temperature and humidity controlled vault at the national church archives in Austin, Texas, and Canon Guilbert, Custodian of the Standard Book since 1963, expects to store the new one there also.

The Standard Book is used at the installation of the Presiding Bishop, but otherwise is rarely on display. The 1892 Book is bound in leather, embossed with sterling silver. The 1928 Book is less elaborate. Plans for the 1979 edition are not complete yet.

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Churches and individuals will not have to wait until the new Standard Book has been printed before they can buy their copies of the 1979 edition, however. Canon Guilbert has relinquished his copyright on the contents of the new book, as with former books, and it is now "in the public domain." He indicated that he was aware that at least the Church Hymnal Corporation, Seabury Press and Oxford University Press have plans to produce a variety of sizes and bindings of the 1979 Book in the near future.

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PICTURE CAPTION

79331 The Rev. Canon Charles M. Guilbert, Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church, examines the Oxford Prayer Book which he has selected as the interim, new Standard Book of Common Prayer.

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